Editing RAWS observations to produce NFDRS indices

Weather stations that transmit their data to WIMS via satellite need to have the RAW data "edited" before:

1) NFDRS indices can be calculated,
2) The observations are forwarded to the National Weather Service for their use in forecasting,
3) The data is archived into NIFMID (the National Interagency Fire Management Integrated Database).

The following procedural steps are required to accomplish this "edit" using the WEB based WIMS system. In order for the data to be of value to the National Weather Service, these edits should be done no later than 2:45 local Daylight Time. (1:45 when we go back to standard time at the end of October.)

1. Using your Internet browser, access WIMS through the following URL:
   http://famweb.nwcg.gov

   The National Fire and Aviation Web Applications Home Page should appear.

2. Using your mouse move the cursor to the WIMS bar and left click on it to access WIMS.

3. A pop-up window should appear asking you for your Log In ID and Password. NOTE: If you maintain the SIT report for your unit or regularly access KCFAST, your user name and password are the same ones you use with either of those applications. After you enter the logon ID and password, press enter on your keyboard.

4. The WIMS main menu will appear.

5. In the small block in the upper left hand corner next to the word Fastpath, enter **EOBS** and press **GO,** to bring up the edit observation form.

6. Clear any station number that may appear in the form by spacing through it.

7. In the Station block enter the NWS number for your station (i.e. 452918). If you are editing data for several stations, you may want to create a SIG (Special Interest Group) containing the stations you want to edit. If you are using a SIG, leave the station number field blank and enter the SIG name behind the field labeled SIG.

8. In the Type block put an R, make sure the date is the current date, and enter the time of the observation you want to edit. NOTE: NFDRS calculations use the observation closest to 1300 hour (local standard time). The satellite transmissions are always displayed in standard time. When displaying information using the EOBS function, WIMS drops the minutes (It does not round to the nearest hour.) so your station which transmits it's data at 1308 local standard time is displayed as a 13 obs. time. You want to enter 13 in the time field. If your station transmits at 1248, you need to enter 12 in the time field. (1248 is the nearest observation you have to 1300 hours.)

After you have entered the station number or SIG name, Type, Date, and Time press the FIND button. (You may have to slide the screen bar to the right to display the FIND button.

9. The available information for the stations will be displayed. You must now edit the appropriate fields.

a. Tab to the OT field and change the R to an O.
b. Tab to the W field and enter the current state of weather using the standard coding of 0 thru 9 where 0 is 100% clear, etc.
c. Tab to the ML field and enter the lightning activity level for the period midnight to current observation time using the standard coding of 1 thru 6 where 1 is no lightning activity during the period.
d. Tab to the YL field and enter the lightning activity level for the period from yesterdays observation to midnight using the standard coding of 1 thru 6 where 1 is no lightning activity during the period. You may have to slide the screen bar to the right to display the entire screen and reach the Y L and W F fields.
e. Tab to W F field. If it is raining at the time of observation or the fuels are snow covered, enter a Y to indicate the fuels are wet, if not leave it as an N.
f. Press SAVE button when all edits have been made.

10. Your data has now been edited for NFDRS calculations; sent to the NWS, and is now archived in NIFMID.

11. Exit WIMS by typing EXIT in the Fastpath field.

Other FASTPATHS that you may find useful when working in WIMS
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EOBS—Allows the station owner to edit observations for NFDRS calculations, etc.
DOBS—Displays observations for the station or SIG, date and time specified.
DIDX—Displays NFDRS indices for the station or SIG, date and time specified after edits have been made.
DRAWS—Displays the hourly observations for the station and date specified.
NSIG—Allows user to create a new special interest group.
EAVG—Allows user to assign weightings to stations within a SIG for use with DAVG
DAVG—Allows user to display weighted average indices and calculates IFPL for SIGS.
ESTA—Views the catalog for the station specified and allows station owner to edit screen 1 data.
ENFDR—Allows station owner to edit the carryover values on screen 2 of the catalog.